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NBC

• ADVERTISER *WABU AMU NEWS HOUR*

WRITER

• PROGRAM TITLE *"HONOLULU HAWAII FORECAST SATURDAY" (1955)*

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CHICAGO OUTLET *WMAQ*

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TIME

DATE

DAY

• *11:00-11:30 PM*

• *FEBRUARY 5, 1957*

• *FRIDAY*

• PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

• REMARKS

ANNOUNCER: "Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers"

MUSIC: CHARTER: HARGIS'S SONG.

ANNOUNCER: Flood flood control is one of the vital problems facing the United States is a fact that has been brought home to us with tragic emphasis in the past few weeks. It is a problem we must all face and attempt to combat. The recent floods have impressed us vividly with the importance of our water control program in the immediate future.

During the flood disaster in the Ohio and Mississippi valleys, Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers throughout the Nation have been working valiantly along with other forces in the various communities. Forest Service trucks and equipment were joined in the work of rescue and relief agencies for the use of supplies. The Forest Service personnel and equipment used in fire emergencies have proved of inestimable value in flood emergencies. The Forest Service also is working out its part in the larger, long-term job of attacking the flood problem at its source. It is working to restore adequate forest cover on critical watershed areas, to prevent the runoff from hillsides which destroy not only trees and shrubs but the young life killed on the forest floor, to bring sound management to all forest lands which will restore and preserve their maximum value not only in watershed protection but as productive areas contributing to economic well-being.

While high waters have raged in the Central Valley as at the Pine Cone National Forest, prolonged rains and warm weather rapidly melting the snow have given Ranger Jim Manning and his assistant Jerry Quist, something to worry about right now. Today, we arrive at the Pine Cone Ranger Station in the early morning.

SOUND: (OFF -- PHONE RINGS ONCE -- PAUSE -- RINGS AGAIN)

BESS: Jim -- Jim, wake up

JIM: (SLEEPILY) Oh -- What is it, Essy?

SOUND: (OFF -- PHONE RINGS)

BESS: Wake up. The telephone's ringing.

JIM: Telephone? -- Oh --

BESS: Yes. Hurry. It must be something important at this hour.

JIM: What time is it?

BESS: Four o'clock.

JIM: (FADING) I've been expecting a call from Millburg any time.

SOUND: (OFF -- PHONE RINGS)

JIM: (FADE IN) Hello. Pine Cone Ranger Station. Yes, Jack, what is it? -- Millburg? -- Of course we will -- How soon can we start? Right away, Jack. It's just your word. Pick up Doc Peters? -- You bet. I'll send out a call for volunteers and we'll get over there just as fast as we can. All right. 'Bye, Doc. (HANGS UP).

BESS: (FADE IN) What is it, Jim?

JERRY: (FADE IN) What's wrong, Jim?

JIM: That was Millburg.

BESS: Is it a flood?

JIM: Yes. The water's rising all the time, and they're afraid it's going to bed. They need men and trucks to help evacuate the town.

BESS: How soon are you starting, Jim?

JIM: Right away, Bess - We've gotta get busy. Jerry, call the CCC camp and tell 'em to stand by for an emergency call. Round up all the Forest Service trucks we have on the District and have 'em report to me at Millburg.

JERRY: Right away, Jim

JIM: We'd better take along a couple of our portable radiophones in case the telephone lines've gone out.

JERRY: We've got three SPF kitboxes packed, ready to carry, Jim.

JIM: Good. Put 'em on the truck. I'm gonna round up trucks and volunteers here in Winding Creek. We wanta be ready to start in.

BESS: I'm going with you, Jim.

JIM: No, better not, Bess. It'll be hard, man's work and ---

BESS: There'll be work there for a woman to do.

JIM: Okay, Bess.

MUSIC: (INTERLUDE)

SOUND: (FADE IN CROWD EFFECT IN BACKGROUND WORDS THROUGHOUT SCENE)

JIM: (FADE IN) How's the radiophone working, Jerry?

JERRY: It's all right now. I strung the antenna outside. This church wasn't built for a radio station.

JIM: Or a hospital, either. But it'll do 'till we can get these folks over to Bald Rock and out of danger.

JERRY: Do you want to take over now? I'll help the boys carry sick people out to the trucks.

JIM: Sure. Give me the headphones.

JERRY: You can use the speaker.

JIM: No use letting these sick people hear any more about the flood than we can help. If they knew they were being rushed away from here because the dam is in danger, they might get panicky.

DOC: (FADE IN) Can't we get these people out of here faster, Jim? There's no telling how long that dam will hold.

JIM: Doing all we can, Doc. I just got a call through to Willow Glen for more trucks.

DOC: There's several people left here that's mighty sick, Jim. We've got to get them out.

JERRY: We'll get 'em out all right, Doc.

BESS: (FADE IN) Oh, Doctor Peters, come quick. -- They've just brought in a man that's badly hurt.

DOC: Coming, Mrs. Robbins - right away.

TOBY: (CHILD'S VOICE) (FADE IN) Ma'am, have you seen my mother?

BESS: Well, perhaps I have. I don't know. What's her name?

TOBY: Mrs. Colvin, same as mine. Mine's Toby Colvin. I haven't seen Mother since last night, when they took us from our house to bring us here.

BESS: Maybe she got into one of the trucks.

TOBY: I don't know. My Dad told me to take care of her.

BESS: Perhaps the doctor can tell you where she is.

DOC: (TO HIMSELF) Mrs. Colvin -- yes --

TOBY: Do you know where my mother is, sir?

DOC: I haven't time now, son. Get those trucks here as quick as you can, Jim. (FADING) Where's that man that's hurt, Mrs. Robbins?

TOBY: I guess he doesn't know, either. I'll have to hunt some more. If you see her, tell her I'm looking for her, will yuh? (FADING) I ought to find her pretty soon.

JIM: I'll tell 'er, sonny -- Did anybody answer your last call Jerry?

JERRY: No, I couldn't get it through.

JIM: I'll try again (BROADCASTING) SPF-371 --- SPF-371
Calling PF822 -- Calling PF822 -- What's the situation at the dam? What's it look like at the dam? -- Did you get it? Go ahead

JERRY: (FADING) I'll go help get the people into the trucks.

BESS: (COMING UP) Have you heard any more about the dam, Jim?

JIM: Sh-h- quiet, Beas. Report coming in now --- M-8-2
that's worse than I expected.

BESS: What, Jim?

JIM: PF-322 -- that's our lookout man -- I've got him up by the dam with a portable radio -- he reports that the dam is weakening more every minute.

BESS: Oh, Jim, how are we going to get these poor sick folks out of here?

JIM: More trucks are on the way, Beas.

DOC: (FADE IN) You say more trucks are coming?

JIM: Yes.

DOC: About time.

JIM: Bess, you'd better go over to Bald Rock with the next truck. It's not safe here any more.

BESS: But Doctor Peter needs some one here to help him.

DOC: Need you over there more, Mrs. Robbins?

BESS: All right. But how are you going to get across, Jim? You can't stay here if the dam's going to break.

JIM: We'll make it all right, Bess.

DOC: (FADING) Come along, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Jim, you'll promise me you won't stay too long.

JIM: Sure, Bess. Better hurry. Doc needs you.

BESS: Jim, I -- Oh, Jim! -- (SOFTLY) All right, Jim -- (FADING)
You'll come as soon as you can.

JIM: (SOFTLY) We will, Bess.

TOBY: (FADE IN) Mr. Ranger, why are they taking everybody away in the trucks?

JIM: Well, Toby, they want to get them to a dry place.

TOBY: I see. The water is getting higher on the steps outside. It's almost to the top step now.

JIM: To the top step?

TOBY: Yeah. I saw it just now.

JIM: You'd better get into a truck, Toby, and go along with the rest of them.

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JOEY: But I haven't found my camera yet. (WHISTLE) I'll go look
down more.

JERRY: (PAGE IN) The water's rising all the time, Jim.

JIM: Are all the sick people gone?

JERRY: Only a few more left.

JIM: Having any trouble with them?

JERRY: They're beginning to panic on me. Some of 'em are making
kinda panicky.

DOC: (PAGE IN) Jim, that water's coming up pretty fast. I wish
if they can get another truck up here.

JIM: Quiet. There's a report coming through -- They say the
dam appears to be giving way. Don't last much longer.

DOC: I tell you we've got to get everybody out here, Jim.

(FADING) We'll be drowned like rats in a sewer if we don't
get out of here. (FADING)

JIM: Stand by this radio a minute, will you Jerry? I want
check up and see that everybody gets out.

JERRY: Sure.

JOEY: (PAGE IN) Have you seen my camera, Jerry?

JERRY: No, I haven't, Tony.

JOEY: But most everybody's gone and I won't find her at all.

JERRY: Maybe she went in one of the trucks.

JOEY: I watched them all, but I haven't seen her.

JERRY: She's probably over on East East waiting for you.

TOBY: But she would have sent for me. I've got to find her.
My Dad'll be worried if I don't.

JERRY: Well, you go get in the truck, now, and we'll help you
find her when we get there. (CALLING) Jim!

JIM: (OFF) Yes, Jerry.

JERRY: Put Toby into the truck with Doc Peters, will you?

JIM: (OFF) You bet, Jerry.

JERRY: Doctor Peters'll see to it that you get there, Toby.
Hurry up.

TOBY: (FADING) I'll find her if she's over on Bald Rock.

SOUND: (ROAR OF TRUCK, OFF)

JIM: (COMING UP) Well, everybody's out, Jerry. The truck
got away all right.

JERRY: Good.

JIM: It'll be the last one, though. Water's too high for 'em to
get in here now.

JERRY: What're we gonna do?

JIM: We'll have to try to make higher ground on foot, Jerry.
Have to do some wading, I reckon.

JERRY: I'll say. The water's coming in on the floor already. Look!

JIM: Yep.

JERRY: Gosh, chances don't look so good, Jim. - If that dam goes
out --

JIM: Come on. Let's go.

MUSIC: (INTERLUDE)

SOUND: (ROAR OF WATER AND VOICES IN BACKGROUND)

VOICES: "Here comes the water!" "Come on, Ranger."

VOICE: (DISTANCE - BRUISING) The dam's out. It's broken.
Here comes the water.

VOICES: "Here comes the water." "Step on it, Ranger." "Run for it."

JERRY: (FADING IN) We made it, Jim.

JIM: (FADING IN) Yes.

JERRY: Oh, Jim!

JIM: We're all right, Jess. Kind of a narrow squeak, wasn't it?

VOICES: "Look at that wall of water!" "The church is almost covered!"

JIM: Did everybody make it?

DOG: (FADING IN) I think they did, Jim.

JERRY: It's a good thing you moved the kids higher up here. Co
Redd Rock helped the dam that time.

DOG: We've got to move them to town as quickly as we can. The
excavator doesn't do too good.

JERRY: Look. All you can see of the church is the spire.

DOCK: (FADING IN) Mr. Ranger, have you seen my mother yet? I can't
find her. I've looked everywhere.

JERRY: Now, look, you're blue with cold. You ought to have
something warm to wear.

DOCK: (ALMOST IN TEARS) Oh, I gotta find my mother. My Dad told
me to take care of her.

BESS: But you've got to get warm first. She wouldn't want her son to get sick.

TOBY: (SOBBING) But I can't find her.

BESS: (FADING) Well, let's go find a warm blanket to wrap around you.

JIM: Doesn't anybody know where Toby's mother is, Doc?

DOC: Yes.

JIM: (PAUSE) Oh -- Then -- she's --

DOC: Yes. Her body was found this noon.

JIM: I see.

JERRY: (PAUSE) Look at that water!

DOC: Listen to it

JERRY: Sounds almost like the roar of a forest fire.

JIM: It is the roar of a forest fire, Doc, in a way. See those naked mountains that surrounded the valley?

DOC: Yep. I remember, Jim, when there was forest all over 'em. There was a big logging town here. That's what started the town of Millburg.

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JIM: And forests that destroyed in destruction and burning the forest. We have no more rain on the River John National Forest and they are in this valley. But the town of Windy Creek isn't under water like Millinery is now. There's more water in Windy Creek, but it isn't flooding. There's because the watersheds of Windy Creek are protected by the proper natural covering that catches the rain and sends it more slowly to the stream. The high, barren slopes of this valley, covered by fire and erosion, only feed a flood with tons and tons of mud and silt. Instead of being a protection against floods, the properly managed watersheds are becoming a flood, they are a menace. At first, they were. There's nothing much left for them to become more now.

BOB: Yeah, Jim, that's the tragedy of it.

JIM: Yes, but there's an even greater tragedy. Perhaps the power of floods can't be stopped altogether. But we can do something. We can attack them at the source, up on the watersheds. We can restore depleted watersheds, we can have a better soil erosion, and give our forests adequate protection. Then maybe we can stop some of this disaster, the destruction of homes and farms and whole towns, maybe we can stop some of this loss of lives, maybe we can prevent things like this - that little town where nobody could all day looking for someone who'll never find.

MUSIC: (FINALE)

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Reserve songs are now every Friday on the Voice and Home show from the studios of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

ENCLOSURE 18-37

